

More help in finding community problems/needs

1. YSU ranks #21(of 44) in a recent online study of “best value” Ohio colleges and universities.

[Affordable Colleges Online](http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/online-colleges/ohio/)

<http://www.affordablecollegesonline.org/online-colleges/ohio/>

- ★ YSU represents a better value than 23 peer schools. That’s an accomplishment.
- ★ But 20 schools are better values than YSU. That represents a NEED for YSU
- ★ What action can faculty, administration, students and community take, separately or together, to lift YSU to the top 10?

2. Bullying (and similar phenomena) are common in young people's lives. It might be a PROBLEM in your community or in your community's schools:

Every 30 minutes a teenager attempts suicide due to bullying.
About 47 teens are bullied every five minutes.
Victims of cyberbullying show more signs of depression than other bullying victims.
Cyberbullying is on the rise in dramatic numbers; it is relentless and more frightening if the bully is anonymous.
There are about 282,000 students who are reportedly attacked in high schools in our nation each month.
71 percent of students report bullying as an ongoing problem.
The leading cause of death among children under the age of 14 is suicide.
"Bullycide" is the new term for suicide as a result of being bullied.
Teens in grades 6 through 10 are most likely to be involved in activities related to bullying.
Almost half of all students fear harassment or bullying in the bathroom.

Source: National Institutes of Health, SAFE, Tony Bartoli

[DoSomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)

<http://www.dosomething.org/cause/bullying-and-violence>

- ★ Sponsor a Violence Awareness Week
- ★ Strengthen your school's Bullying Policy
- ★ Have your schools participate in National Day of Silence
- ★ Help organize a Poetry Slam for Bullying
- ★ Change the law to end Bullying

(More)

Step 1. Look up the current law. Break the Cycle just released its annual State Law Report Cards. Using a detailed and comprehensive grading system, Break the Cycle awarded each state a grade based on minors' accessibility to domestic violence restraining orders. State grades were released for the first time, and some states responded by making positive changes. Which states stepped up and which ones still have work to do?

Step 2. Does Ohio still have improvements to make to help protect teens? Launch a policy case! Download the attached letter and send it to your members of Congress—after all, it's their job to listen to you. Let them know minors have rights! Locate your Senators and your Representatives to start!

☛ You will need: Letter Template (download), Emails to your Senators or Representatives

11 Ways You Can Help to Stop Bullying

<http://community-matters.org/get-involved/11-ways-to-stop-bullying>

3. What happens to unused medicines? Do they go into the sewers and, from there, to streams and water supply? Do they go to landfills? Do they become toys for children?

More than 100 different pharmaceuticals have been detected in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and streams throughout the world.¹

Pharmaceuticals are being detected in the environment and there is genuine concern that these compounds, in the small concentrations they're at, could be causing impacts to human health or to aquatic organisms.¹

A vast array of pharmaceuticals — including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones — have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans.¹

The New York state health department and the USGS tested the source of the city's water, upstate. They found trace concentrations of heart medicine, antibiotics, estrogen, anti-convulsants, a mood stabilizer and a tranquilizer.¹

Even users of bottled water and home filtration systems don't necessarily avoid exposure. Bottlers, some of which simply repackage tap water, do not typically treat or test for pharmaceuticals, according to the industry's main trade group. The same goes for the makers of home filtration systems.¹

In the United States, the problem isn't confined to surface waters. Pharmaceuticals also permeate aquifers deep underground, source of 40% of the nation's water supply. Federal scientists who drew water in 24 states from aquifers near contaminant sources such as landfills and animal feed lots found minuscule levels of hormones, antibiotics and other drugs.¹

[Dispose My Meds](http://www.disposemymeds.org/)

<http://www.disposemymeds.org/>

[Take Back Your Meds](http://www.takebackyourmeds.org/what-you-can-do/medicine-disposal-myths-and-facts)

Washington Needs A Statewide Medicine Takeback Program

<http://www.takebackyourmeds.org/what-you-can-do/medicine-disposal-myths-and-facts>

[City of Mountain View](http://www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/city_hall/public_works/garbage_and_recycling/medications_disposal.asp)

Safe Medication Disposal Day

http://www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/city_hall/public_works/garbage_and_recycling/medications_disposal.asp

[Recycle Indiana](http://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/2343.htm)

Unwanted Medicine Collection Programs

<http://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/2343.htm>

4. Is help available online for determining community problems? Similar techniques can be used for finding problems of any community, whether a nonprofit agency, a labor union, a social club, or whatever.

[The Community Toolbox](#)

What is a community problem?

http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/sub_section_main_1017.aspx

[Examining Community/School Problems](#)

<http://www.scbarr.org/public/files/docs/LRE/pccomproblem.pdf>

5. And are materials online to help guide leaders to find ways to HELP a community? Note: “to help” is simply another way of saying “to eliminate problems.”

[Buy Independent / Buy Local \(BIBL\) campaign](http://www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy/5-ways-to-help-your-community-go-local)

http://www.yesmagazine.org/new-economy/5-ways-to-help-your-community-go-local

[60 Ways to Better Your Community](http://www.signupgenius.com/nonprofit/community-service-project-ideas.cfm)

http://www.signupgenius.com/nonprofit/community-service-project-ideas.cfm

Ideas for Community Service Projects

[55 Ways to Help Animals](http://www.humanesociety.org/action/55_actions_to_help_animals.html)

http://www.humanesociety.org/action/55_actions_to_help_animals.html

Disaster Animal Response Team training

[25 Ways for Your Keep America Beautiful Chapter to Improve Your Community](http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ptk_24ways)

http://www.kab.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ptk_24ways

Organize a “Clothes Collection” on campus.

[12 Ways to Make A Difference in your Community](http://12most.com/2011/07/20/12-helpful-ways-difference-community/)

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ServeHope teams